



michoud messenger

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Astronauts Visit NASA's Michoud Assembly Facility Employees

The crews of STS-130 and STS-133 visited Michoud Assembly Facility over a four-day span in March. Four members of the STS-130 crew held a general assembly Mar. 25 in the factory to thank external tank workers and outline their mission to the International Space Station.

The crew of STS-130 delivered a third connecting module - the Tranquility node - to the station and a seven-windowed cupola to be used as a control room for robotics. The mission featured three spacewalks.

STS-130 was the 32nd shuttle mission to the station.

The STS-133 crew, the last scheduled team of astronauts scheduled to fly on the space shuttle in September, ate crawfish with MAF workers Mar. 22. Astronaut Nicole Stott said she enjoyed her first taste of crawfish and the visit with contractors who built the external tanks.

The STS-133 crew also toured the factory floor and viewed ET-138, the last external tank scheduled to be built at Michoud.



STS 133 Mission Specialist Timothy Kopra talks with MAF employees while enjoying some Louisiana crawfish. Kopra and the STS-133 crew visited MAF Mar. 22 to meet with employees and tour the plant.



The crew of STS-130 outline their mission to MAF employees during a general assembly Mar. 25. The astronauts signed autographs after following the general assembly.

STS-131 Launch Honorees to View Launch



**Heather
Brooks**



**Peter
Smith**



**Andre
Charbonnet**



Scheduled to launch on April 5, MSFOC Launch Honorees will be among the other NASA and contractor outstanding employees viewing the shuttle launch. The seven-member STS-131 crew will deliver the multi-purpose logistics module Leonardo, filled with resupply stowage platforms and racks, to the International Space Station aboard Discovery.

Gravolet Visits Holy Cross High School



NASA's Robert Gravolet spoke to students March 24 at Holy Cross School in New Orleans. A 1983 Holy Cross graduate, Gravolet addressed about 100 students during career day. He talked about careers at NASA and outlined his job at the Michoud Assembly Facility.

MSFC's New Deputy Director

Gene Goldman has been named deputy director of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center. Goldman returns to Marshall after serving as director of NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center.



Gene Goldman

Prior to being named director of Stennis, Goldman served as its deputy director from 2006 to 2008. Before arriving at Stennis, he served two years as manager of the Space Shuttle Main Engine Project at Marshall, and five years as the deputy manager of that project.

Goldman began his NASA career in 1990. He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 2004 after completing NASA's SES Candidate Development Program.

A native of Russell, Miss., Goldman earned the Registered Professional Engineer-Civil certification in 1983 and holds a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering from Mississippi State University. He completed the Senior Executive Fellows Program at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., in 2002 and the Congressional Operations Program at George Washington University in Washington in 2003. He is the recipient of numerous NASA awards.

Letters from Leadership

Spaceflight is among the most demanding of all human endeavors. It is intolerant of mistakes and errors. In order for a rocket to get into low Earth orbit, in slightly more than 500 seconds, it must go from a standing stop... bolted to a launch pad on the ground... to 17,500 mph (25 times the speed of sound), over 100 miles high. Acceleration like this requires the controlled release of huge amounts of energy... rates of energy release that would make a top fuel dragster look like a kiddie car!

And that's where the danger and the challenges lie. Even the tiniest of mistakes can have huge consequences: a slightly contaminated bonding surface; a barely visible part misalignment; even the smallest "off-ratio" mixture of a two-part material can directly lead to catastrophic consequences.

There has seldom been a time of greater uncertainty in NASA's history: Will shuttle really end as planned? Will the next launch vehicle really be canceled? What does the future hold for Human spaceflight? All great questions... but all are huge sources of distraction.

In these turbulent times, we've all got to stay completely focused on our assigned tasks and not lose our concentration. Now, perhaps more than ever, we've all got to keep our eyes on the ball!

Our astronauts and our nation expect nothing less.

— John Chapman, NASA External Tank Project Manager

Employee Spotlight

This month's spotlight is on MAF Harbor Master Captain Terry Fitzgerald. Even though he has only been at MAF since July 2009, Fitzgerald is very familiar with the area.



Terry Fitzgerald

"My family has been around New Orleans for five generations. I was born in West Virginia but went to grade school and junior high in New Orleans and high school in Pass Christian, MS."

Prior to joining Jacobs, Fitzgerald owned his own business, 'The Captain School,' where he taught a U.S. Coast Guard-approved captain's license course.

"I've worked on the water all my life, so just being by the water is a great feeling. I grew up sailing and that hobby turned into my life."

Although Fitzgerald has traveled the world, he's glad to be in New Orleans working at MAF. "I really feel there is a lot of potential at MAF – we're located right on the Intracoastal Waterway with great access to interstates and rail," said Fitzgerald, who looks forward to developing new uses for the port.

If you know of someone who might be a good candidate for our next spotlight, email john.filos-trat@nasa.gov.

Building 350 Lobby Sports a New Mural

Standing at seven feet high and twenty feet long, building 350's mural catches visitors' attention when arriving at the Michoud Assembly Facility. Faded and peeling off the wall, the old mural needed some updates from the 1960's idea of MAF's future. Designed by Shannon Jurado, graphic designer, the new mural depicts not only NASA's story, but also includes other tenants such as the USDA and U.S. Coast Guard. The message depicts Michoud's bright future.



MSFOC First Robotics Goes to World Finals



MSFOC sponsored Team 1912 won six awards at the FIRST Robotics Competition's Bayou Regional held in Westwego March 4 – 6. Winning the Regional Chairman's Award, the competition's most prestigious honor – the team has automatically been entered in the FIRST Robotics Competition's World Finals in Atlanta April 15 – 16. The team also will be going to Houston for the Lonestar Regional Competition April 1 – 3.

Did You Know?

The MAF Copy Center is ready to assist you with all of your printing needs. The on-site copy center can provide a featured look to your documents.

- Crunched for time and need copies for a presentation?
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- Require lamination?
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Let us be your next call. Colored paper and cardstock also are available.

Remember, if you have to print more than 50 copies of a single page document, you should let us do the job for you. Documents can be e-mailed to Vickie.A.Schmersahl@nasa.gov. The requisition for duplicating services form that you need to fill out is located at 102-1-EJ28.

For questions call (504)257-1390 or (504)257-4618.

Local Troops Serving in Iraq for Second Tour

MFSOC Now Taking Donations to Send Overseas

The 1/141 Field Artillery Battalion of the 256 Brigade out of Jackson Barracks has been deployed to Iraq. Their mission is perform convoy operations escorting units and supplies along the main supply routes of Iraq to ensure they reach their destination safely. The 1/141 is serving its second tour in Iraq. They are scheduled to return sometime in January 2011.

Our troops have some essentials, but do not have uniquely American items such as snacks and DVD's. If you would like to donate, please contact Shannon Jurado at (504) 257-4179 for a list of items.



National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Michoud Assembly Facility

13800 Old Gentilly Rd.
New Orleans, LA 70129
<http://maf.msfc.nasa.gov>

www.nasa.gov

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Acting MAF COO: Steve Doering

Editors: John Filostrat and Angela Storey

Layout/Design: Shannon Jurado

Photographers: Chip Howat and Steven Seipel

Contributors: U.S. Army

